

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-15 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 EB-11 IO-13 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIEP-02 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02

RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 151214Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2849

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 4688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

SUBJECT: ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

1. DURING COURSE OF DCM'S AUGUST 11 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL MAHMOUD MESTIRI (SEE SEPTELS), SUBJECT OF TUNISIAN PARTICIPATION AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WAS ALSO RAISED.

2. MESTIRI STATED THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA WOULD BE ATTENDING CONFERENCE BUT PROBABLY WOULD REMAIN NO MORE THAN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, ALTHOUGH SOJOURN WOULD DEPEND BOTH ON BOURGUIBA'S HEALTH AS WELL AS ANY SPECIAL REQUEST TO REMAIN WHICH BOUMEDIENE MIGHT MAKE OF THE PRESIDENT. (WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI WILL ATTEND CONFERENCE.)

3. MESTIRI CONTINUED THAT THE GOT WILL FOCUS ON TWO MAJOR SUBJECTS AT THE CONFERENCE: (A) THE MEANING OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND THE ROLE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES AT A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND (B) THEECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH FACE THE THIRD

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WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME HE THOUGHT THAT THE MIDDLE EAST

WOULD ALSO ATTRACT ATTENTION.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO FIRST SUBJECT, MESTIRI NOTED THAT IT IS INDEED DIFFICULT TODAY TO KNOW PRECISELY WHICH STATE IS NON-ALIGNED AND WHICH IS NOT. HE OBSERVED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PAKISTAN WOULD CURRENTLY FIT INTO THAT CATEGORY WHILE INDIA, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL EXPONENTS OF THIS CONCEPT, COULD HARDLY BE CONSIDERED NON-ALIGNED AT PRESENT. THIS WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN TRUE OF EGYPT A YEAR OR SO AGO. AT SAME TIME, STATES LIKE FRANCE AND SPAIN MIGHT EVEN QUALIFY AT PRESENT TIME. THEREFORE, MESTIRI CONTINUED, MUCH THOUGHT WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO AN UPDATED DEFINITION OF THIS CONCEPT.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO PROBLEM (B), MESTIRI NOTED THAT THE MAJOR CONCERN TODAY FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IS THEIR ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF PRICES FOR PRIMARY RAW PRODUCTS LIKE OIL AS WELL AS THE COST OF FINISHED PRODUCTS COMING OUT OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD. MESTIRI THOUGHT THAT THESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MIGHT WELL TURN OUT TO BE THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE.

6. DCM OBSERVED THAT USG HAS NO DIFFICULTY WITH THESE CONFERENCES AND HOPES THEY CAN MAKE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION. USG AGREES THAT DURING THIS TIME OF DETENTE IT IS IMPORTANT INDEED FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO RETHINK THEIR POSITION ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH THEY FACE BOTH AS NON-ALIGNED STATES AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE GREATER WORLD COMMUNITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS04688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SEELYE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730835/aaaaazov.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, TU, XF, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005